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Tuesday, November 27, 2007

**Tuesday
Notebook****BREAKING NEWS**

OPRAH WINFREY WILL JOIN BARACK OBAMA ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, VISITING IOWA AND NEW HAMPSHIRE, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

METRO

NEW STORES, RESTAURANTS AND CONDOS ARE DRAWING MORE STUDENTS OUT TO UNIVERSITY TOWN CENTER IN HYATTSVILLE, MD.

SPORTS

BISON STUDENT ATHLETES TAKE TIME OFF OF THE FIELD TO COLLECT MORE THAN JUST POINTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

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Police Brutality Receiving Attention

BY JADA SMITH
Staff Writer

This weekend marked the one year anniversary of the murder of Sean Bell, a groom-to-be who was shot dead by plainclothes New York Police Department (NYPD) detectives while leaving his bachelor party in Jamaica Queens, N.Y.

Bell, shot 50 times, was unarmed. This came long after the murder of Amadou Diallo, an immigrant to the United States from Guinea who was killed in February 1999 by four NYPD plainclothes officers. Diallo, unarmed, was shot 41 times in the Bronx.

While police brutality has a long history in the United States and these incidents are earning more airtime on news stations and more headlines in newspapers, the police officers involved may not be getting punished adequately.

Three of the five detectives involved in the Bell shooting were indicted by a grand jury while all of the officers involved in the Diallo case were acquitted by a jury trial.

Kheil Coppin was an 18-year-old black man from Bedford-Stuyvesant Brooklyn, N.Y. with a history of mental illness. He was killed after threatening police with a hidden hair brush outside of his home two weeks ago.

"He dropped the brush. He put his hands up. Police just started firing," said witness Dystawn Gibson to CNN reporters.

"It's definitely a shame, the police departments all over the U.S. need to be reevaluated right now," said Wana Charlot, a sophomore physician assistant major. "It's almost like, if someone kills a black person, they don't even care. They're obviously not worried about us," she said.

Police shootings, brutality and misconduct happen everyday across the country. The U.S. Department of Justice reported that in 2001, approximately 422,000 people 16-years-old and



Photo Courtesy of Stephen Springle

Stephen Springle (above) said he was beaten and harassed by police officers in New York on Oct. 28.

older were estimated to have had contact with police in which force or the threat of force was used. In 2006, 2,000 of 26,556 citizen complaints against police officers were sustained.

These figures, however, do not account for the numerous misconduct reports and allegations that go unreported all of the time.

In April, a study focused on the Chicago Police Department found that 19 out of 10,000 complaints of excessive force and abuse by police officers over a two-year period resulted in meaningful disciplinary action.

New York City Judge Pierre Turner admits that there are major flaws within the justice system when it comes to punitive measures taken against police, especially when it involves minority victims.

"In the case of Amadou Diallo, he was shot 40 times, and the police were tried and ultimately acquitted, but the games were played. It wasn't tried in the Bronx, where the incident took place; it was tried in an all white county. They were getting more than what they deserved in a fair

trial," said Turner.

"The police department does take brutality allegations seriously. Depending on the situation, some cops will lose their jobs or their pensions. When cops are involved in a shooting, there has to be an investigation before the grand jury and then an indictment, in most cases," he continued. "Historically though, cops have gotten off with shootings of blacks."

Despite the attention received by cases such as Diallo, Bell and Coppin, most incidents of police brutality and misconduct are over looked by mainstream media.

"Many cases go without attention," Turner said. "There are cases everyday where the police are giving people in poor neighborhoods a hard time, but that gets no showcase. For us [blacks] to be given attention, it has to be newsworthy. The average run of the mill cases, you don't hear about. When things happen to white people, it gets a lot more attention than everybody else's problems."

He said that, when police go on trial, there are often

ways that their attorneys manipulate the law to make it work in the officer's favor, whether they are guilty or not.

"In many cases when police go before trial, they elect to go before a judge as opposed to a jury. People tend to think that all trials are done before a jury but sometimes it's a judge trial. Juries tend to be more biased against the police because they may have been in a similar situation or have known someone to be wrongfully harassed by an officer," Turner said.

He said that, in Coppin's case with the hairbrush, the police will most likely not get indicted.

"The press and the media tend to not be a friend to the disenfranchised. They tend to speak on the side of power, not truth to power," he said.

Stephen Springle, a full-time student and cab driver, said that he had made numerous complaints against officers in his precinct on occasion, but saw no improvement. On Oct. 28, in New York, the 44-year-old said that he

> See **POLICE**, Page 3

Redskins Fans Pray for Pro-Bowl Safety

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Sports Editor

Redskins Pro Bowl safety Sean Taylor was shot in his south Florida home early Monday morning. The star player is in critical condition after receiving surgery from what is being reported as a gunshot wound in the leg.

Police are still investigating both a suspect as well as the reason

for the assault, however Miami-Dade officials are describing it as an armed robbery attempt of Taylor's home.

"It could have been a possible burglary; it could have been a possible robbery," said Lt. Nancy

Perez of the Miami-Dade police department in a press conference held on Monday. "It has not been confirmed as yet."

Taylor, 24, was airlifted to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami-Dade County after local authorities received a call from his girlfriend around 1:45 a.m. The Miami Herald reported that the gunshot wound was in Taylor's groin area and he lost a "significant" amount of blood because the bullet damaged his femoral artery. Doctors are

worried about blood flow to the brain.

It was reported on local Washington news station Fox 5 that Taylor entered into a coma around noon on Monday after hours of surgery.

"They robbed his house and shot him in the leg, it just goes to show there are 'haters' everywhere," commented Bison wide receiver, senior Arlandus Hood.

Taylor is in his fourth season with the Redskins after playing at the University of Miami, where he was an all-American in 2003. He is tied for the NFC lead with five interceptions.

The Redskins, now 5-6 for the season, lost 19-13 to Tampa on Sunday afternoon. Taylor did not travel with the team to the game

because of an injury. Taylor sprained a ligament in his right knee in the second half of the Nov. 11 loss to Philadelphia. He was expected to miss at least two games.

"Taylor had missed the last two games because of a knee injury and was at home recuperating," Perez stated in the press conference.

Only eight days be-

> See **TAYLOR**, Page 3

David Gilkey - Detroit Free Press (MCT)

Safety Sean Taylor sits comatose in a Miami hospital after being shot.

Arabic, African, Asian Language Studies on the Rise

BY LISA M. KRIEGER
San Jose Mercury News (MCT)

College students are increasingly opting to study Middle Eastern, African and Asian languages rather than Spanish, French and German, according to a major new survey by a group that has tracked such statistics for nearly 50 years.

A study by the Modern Language Association released earlier this month, the first since 2002, offers a snapshot of student interest in languages in the fall of 2006 at all post-secondary schools in the country.

Still, Spanish is by far the most popular language studied at U.S. colleges and universities, the study found.

For reasons ranging from Sept. 11 to the Internet and the globalization of the American economy, the largest increases in interest were in Middle Eastern and African languages, where enrollments grew by 55.9 percent and in Asian and Pacific languages, which reported a 24.6 increase.

"There is a readiness on the part of many students to study what have long been considered less familiar and more difficult languages," said Karin Ryding, a member of the MLA's the association's Committee on Foreign Languages and Professor of Arabic at Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

"Americans are, above all, pragmatic language learners," said Ryding at a news conference Nov. 13. "If they see a vital need in terms of national interest or professional opportunity, they will invest the time and energy to study those languages."

The single most dramatic increase was in Arabic, with a 126.5-percent jump in enrollments between 2002 and 2006. Not only have enrollments in Arabic expanded more than two-fold, but the number of colleges and universities offering Arabic has also nearly doubled. Researchers received reports from 466 Arabic programs in 2006 vs. 264 in 2002.

> See **LANGUAGES**, Page 3

Court to Hear D.C. Gun Rights Case

BY MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court on Tuesday agreed to consider a challenge to Washington D.C.'s strict handgun ban, setting up one of the biggest Second Amendment cases in U.S. history.

Without comment or a recorded vote, the court announced that it would hear the gun ban challenge next year. The case returns the high court to a question it last considered in 1939: Whether individuals, outside of a state militia, enjoy a constitutional right to own firearms. Oral arguments are likely in the spring, a decision by the end of June.

"Clearly, the Supreme Court wants to decide the core question of what the Second Amendment means," said Dennis Henigan, the legal director of the Brady Center to Prevent Handgun Violence, in an interview.

Henigan's opponents in the gun debate, even those who disagree violently over the merits, concur that the case entitled *Distric of Columbia v. Heller* could produce a landmark ruling.

"It's a very big deal," Alan Gura, the leading attorney in the challenge to D.C.'s tough gun laws, said on the Supreme Court steps Tuesday afternoon. "Laws that disarm people, laws that leave people defenseless, are going to fail."

The case puts the Second Amendment's wording, long subject to academic debate, front-and-center.

In full, the amendment states:

"A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed."

In its unsigned order Tuesday, the Court said it would consider whether the Washington, D.C. law violates "the Second Amendment rights of individuals who are not affiliated with any state-regulated militia, but who wish to keep handguns and other firearms for private use in their homes."

Put another way, the court will be deciding whether the constitutional right to bear firearms is an "individual" right or one that's attached to a state interest in maintaining a militia. If the court decides that it's an individual right, it will be easier for proponents of gun ownership to challenge other gun restrictions.



Chuck Kennedy - MCT

Lawyer Clark Neily speaks after the Supreme Court agreed to consider whether the Second Amendment protects the right to "keep and bear arms."

"For over 70 years, the court has refused to answer the question of whether the right to bear firearms is an individual right," said Clark Neily, another attorney challenging D.C.'s law.

Supported by the libertarian Cato Institute, gun-rights advocates first took aim at Washington's 31-year-old gun law in 2003. Written when the city was dubbed the nation's "murder capital," the law prohibits ownership of handguns by all residents except retired police officers. The law permits ownership of rifles and shotguns but requires that they be stored unarmed, disassembled and with trigger locks.

Howard Rocks Unsteadily in Culturally Divided Seas

BY ANAIS STRICKLAND
Contributing Writer

Shanda Vereen, a sophomore biology major, recalls the day when she was shooed away from a cafeteria table because she was not of Caribbean origin.

It was a busy day, she said. Vereen and her friends frantically scanned the room for a table to enjoy their meal. The only available seats were at a table coined as "the Caribbean table" because students from the Caribbean usually sit there.

"We tried to sit down, but our RA, who sits at the Caribbean table and was also in CSA [Caribbean Student Association], said that we couldn't sit there because it was a Caribbean table," Vereen said. "We had to be invited."

Kema De-lacoste, a Howard alumnus from Jamaica, also remembers his first days at Howard in the fall of 2003. He socialized only with his brother and old friends from Jamaica.

"I was very reluctant to initiate conversations with people that were not African or Caribbean," he said. "I did not know how Americans would react, so I did not openly speak to them."

Such self-segregation is common at Howard University, which teems with students from all over the world, bringing together cultures from as far away as Asia, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.

Some students of different cultures do not communicate with each other frequently or are not open to the differences of others. This is unfortunate, said Ryan John, a sophomore finance major from Trinidad. It is similar to the segregation of blacks and whites, he said.

John said that such self-segregation prevents the black race as a whole from moving forward. "I want the Americans to get into our culture," he said. "I want them to understand and be a part of it and more accepting and open-minded."

De-lacoste shares the same belief. "This division is a problem because that is the main reason we have so much division among blacks on a national scale," he said. "Yes, it does hinder the black race from working together because we see each other as different and not one people, almost like black and white racism."

According to De-lacoste, ignorance is a major factor contributing to this division on campus.

Creating A Dialogue

During "Talk Yuh Talk," a speak-out and forum hosted by the Howard University Caribbean Student Association (CSA), Mary Chamber, a freshman finance major from Jamaica, said she was met with hostility at Howard.

Chamber said she was told that because she was from the Caribbean, she was not black because she did not experience the same kind of slavery or racism.

"Why don't you guys go back to where you came from; this school was built for African-American students," she recalled hearing.

Vereen said experiences like these cause the student body to separate themselves instead of trying to develop relationships in which they can learn from one



International students are known to congregate under this tree in front of Douglass Hall known as "the Caribbean tree" or the "international student tree."

Justin D. Knight - Staff Photographer

another. She added that most American students are not given the option of learning about other cultures or delving deeper into the history of those cultures.

"In high school, we really don't have the option of learning that much about other cultures," she said. "We don't go into specifics. In college some people take it because they have to, so people don't take a genuine interest in learning about other cultures. I think that we are just so stuck in our own views of [ourselves]."

Many international students share this belief, including Rotimi Iziduh, a sophomore computer engineering major from Nigeria. Iziduh said most American students tend to ask a lot of questions due to their curiosity, but they come across as very offensive and irritating.

"Questions like 'how come you can use the Internet?', 'you speak English so well.' It can be a bit insulting sometimes," Iziduh said.

Seeing the Other Side

But Edson Breedy, a junior psychology major, said international students have some blame to share, too. Breedy, who is from Trinidad and a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., said that when Caribbean students come to America, they have a desire to remain unchanged.

"Very few people want to join other organizations," he said. "They want to stick to going to all-Caribbean parties. They want to go and watch intramural football, and that's all they are content with doing. They seem to pride themselves on not changing."

Iziduh confesses to falling into this trap. "When international students come to Howard, there is a tendency to stay with your international student friends," he said. "I personally can say that I have about three American friends."

Vereen said, "[International students] will be friends with the American students to an extent and then keep a little wall

up because they might be afraid of losing their identity."

Forming the Divide

Due to peoples' tendency to stick with those they are most familiar with, international students sometimes do not venture outside their comfort zones to make friends with students of different cultures.

The division is seen clearly on campus. Many students have observed that students from Nigeria can mainly be seen either in front of Downing Hall or in front of the School of Business.

Students from the Caribbean are known to congregating beneath a tree in front of Douglass Hall that is coined "the Caribbean tree" or "the international student tree."

Many students believe the cause of this division is students' reluctance to embrace the differences that they are surrounded by on a daily basis. Some, however, have welcomed unfamiliar cultures.

Breedy's goal for attending Howard University was to be able to partake in a different culture. "I could've gone to UWI [University of the West Indies], or stayed in Trinidad," he said. "I came to Howard so that I could explore and grow as a human being instead of staying stagnant or staying in the same social position I was all the time."

This goal has led Breedy on an adventure that has carried him from the Gentlemen of Drew Social Club, the organization of his freshman dorm, to Kappa Alpha Psi, an American-founded fraternity.

Closing the Rift

According to Ralph Gomes, a sociology professor from Guyana, many students are reluctant to take a bold step to experience something new as Breedy did.

"International students tend to gravitate towards the nationality groups that they come under because they have similarity in culture and similarity in expectations," he said.

Gomes said this gravi-

tation toward people of similar backgrounds is a human phenomenon.

Gomes said people make analyses based on their framework and background. In order for dif-

ferent cultures to interact more and lessen the division, a commonality must be developed.

While some students have suggested that forums be hosted to inform students about

Following Footsteps Roberta Flack



Photo Courtesy of www.djazz.com

Roberta Flack attended Howard in the 1950s and has become a well known singer and performer.

BY NICOLE EDWARDS
Contributing Writer

As one of the youngest students to ever attend Howard University and a successful jazz and soul singer, Roberta Flack is a legend in her own right.

Her tracks have set in place songs by artists such as T.I. and Project Pat. Her hit "Killing Me Softly With His Song," sampled by the Fugees in 1996, shows that her sound is something people want to hear over and over again.

She has been praised for songs such as "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" and "Where Is The Love," for which she has received four Grammy Awards.

Flack is the inspiration for several great artists of today, including Alicia Keys and India Arie.

Flack was born in Asheville, N.C., in 1939 and later moved to Arlington, Va. As a young child, she developed her musical abilities by taking piano and music lessons. She took her gift of music to Howard at the age of 15 and never looked back, according to her Web site.

Jessica Hathaway, a sophomore voice major, said Roberta Flack is one of her role models.

"My parents used to always play her music," Hathaway said. "She is one of the reasons I decided to pursue singing. She was one of the first concerts I ever went to as a child."

She continued, "The soulful sound of her voice resonates up to the sky. I love her music. Many artists can't stay relevant in today's society, but that is not true with her. The use of her sound in our music shows that she has made an impact on this era."

Flack's singing background can be attributed to her involvement in her church choir.

Even though she has many talents, her heart was always with singing.

While at Howard, she switched her concentration from piano to singing. She was the conductor of the university choir and director of the Howard production of the play "Aida."

In the late '90s, she hosted her own radio show, called "Brunch with Roberta Flack." She also lent her face and voice to the "Come Back to D.C." television campaign to increase tourism in the area.

Her fame is not limited to the United States. Flack has found fame across the world from Japan to South Africa, where at one of her concerts, former South African president Nelson Mandela was in attendance.

Over the years, she has been dedicated to giving back to the community. She has orchestrated a benefit for the Inner City Ghetto Children's Library Fund in Washington, D.C.

She also started her own music school called "Roberta Flack School of Music," which is located in the Bronx, N.Y. Flack is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

Holding teaching positions in Maryland and North Carolina gave way to her lending her musical talents to numerous Washington, D.C. junior high schools in the late 1960s, Banneker Junior High School being one of them. Flack taught students the essence and love of music.

"Flack is one of the music greats," said Joseph Small, a junior music business major. "She has done so much for soul music. You can tell that she is passionate in everything she sings. Her love of music is apparent in her songs."

Flack is still traveling all over the world. In 2008, she will perform at BBQs in February and New York City's Radio City Music Hall in May. In June, she will be in the metro area at the Capitol Jazz Festival in Columbia, Md.

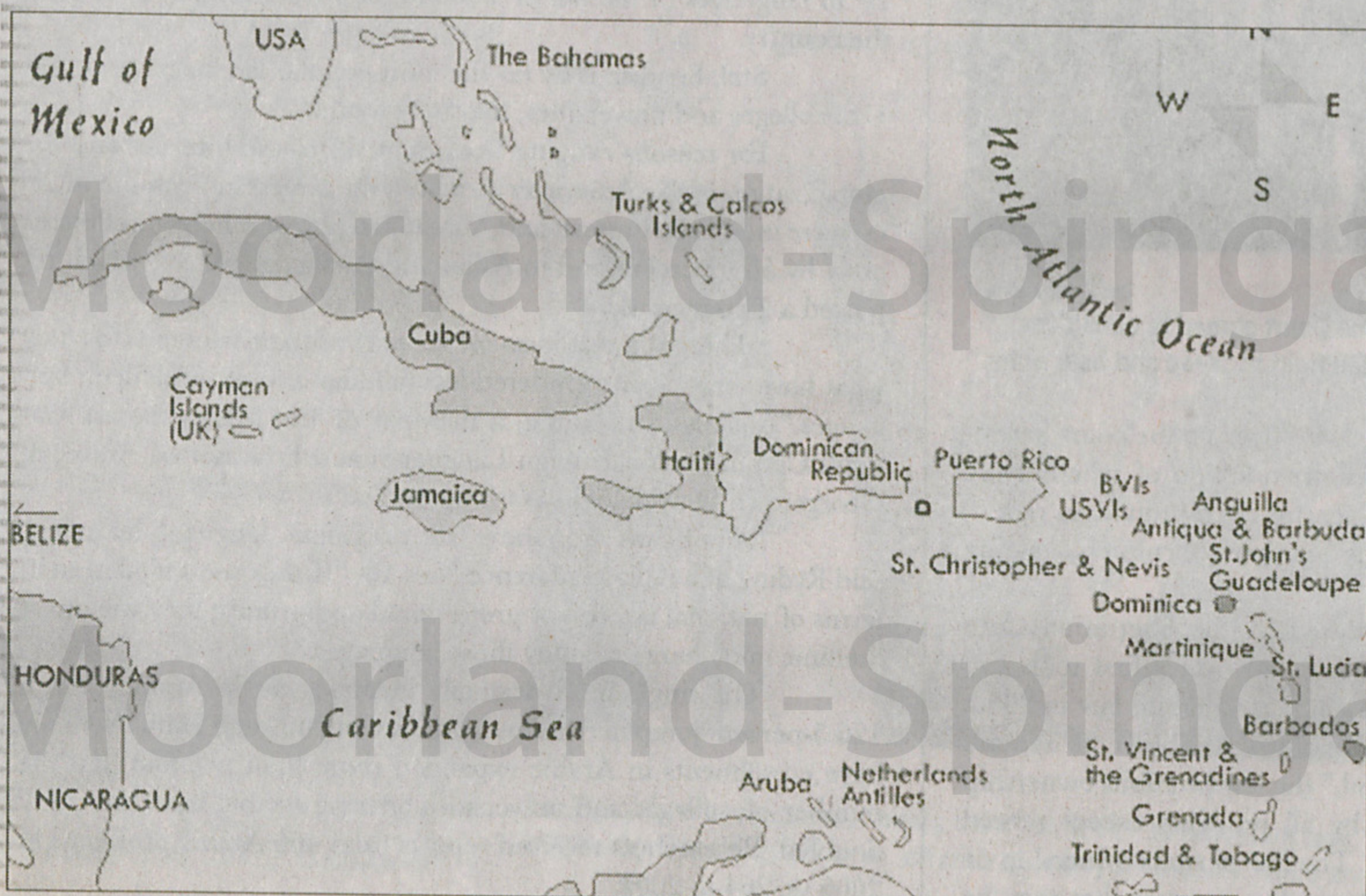


Photo Courtesy of www.caribbeaninspired.com

Students come to Howard from around the world. A significant number of students have origins in the Caribbean.

Police Brutality More Prevalent

Continued from FRONT, POLICE

was harassed and beaten by multiple police officers outside of a discount store.

Recounting his story, Springle said that he was sitting in his car, drinking a cup of coffee and listening to a radio talk show when two officers approached his vehicle asking to see his credentials to drive a taxi.

"I give him my licenses and he goes to check it out on the computer in his car. He comes back and says, 'You're lucky I'm not giving you a summons claim. This license in fraud' I insisted that the license was not fraud and he opens my door and tries to yank me out of the car, but my seat belt was on," said Springle. Then, his story takes a turn for the worst.

"He thinks I'm resisting getting out of the vehicle so he starts punching me, cursing at me and spraying me with mace. Because of the partition in my car, which is in most cabs, he starts to get exposed to the mace and says that I was the one who sprayed him. He then gets a nightstick and starts beating me, but I am able to get a hold of it and I toss it out the car," he said.

The officer proceeded to remove him from the car and continue to kick, punch, Billy club and spray him with mace, leaving Springle with scars on his legs, back and head, nerve damage to his hands, depression and loss of work. He was also charged with resisting arrest, assault 2, grand larceny, and revocation of his license.

Since the incident, Springle has been working closely with the NAACP and his councilman, Leroy Comrie. "I spoke on city hall about this case and about the Sean Bell case a year later. I'm a survivor of this, I lived to talk about it," Springle said. He goes back to court on Dec. 18 and remains hopeful that justice will prevail.

Study Says Eastern Languages More Popular

Continued from FRONT, LANGUAGES

Chinese and Korean enrollments climbed by 51 and 37 percent, respectively, during the four-year period. Some of these students are what researchers call "heritage learners," who seek to reconnect with their native culture and the language of their parents and grandparents.

But almost three-quarters of all students continue to study the traditional favorites, Spanish, French and German.

Spanish remains the most taught language in the United States, outdistancing all other contenders. Enrollment in Spanish has expanded by 10.3 percent, continuing a record of uninterrupted growth begun in 1980. French remains second and German third in

popularity.

But as a percentage of total language enrollments, Spanish, French, and German have lost ground in the past four decades. Spanish remains above 50 percent of total language enrollments, where it has been since 1995, having risen from 32.4 percent in 1968. French has fallen from 34.4 percent in 1968 to 13.1 percent in 2006. Over the same period, German has fallen from 19.2 percent to 6.0 percent.

Russian and Hebrew are barely holding ground. Irish enrollments decreased by 45.5 percent.

In actual enrollments, Arabic still remains relatively small, but for the first time has surpassed Ancient Greek and Biblical Hebrew.

Overall, the portion of college students studying foreign languages has increased only slightly, a trend that researchers say reflects

the increasing number of competing course offerings.

In fall 2006, only 8.6 of 100 students enrolled in colleges and universities studied a modern language course.

Although the number reflects a slight increase from the 2002 figure of 8.1, and well above the numbers seen in the 1970s, when enrollments declined, this number is still well below, almost by half, the enrollments in 1960 and 1965 of 16.1 and 16.5, respectively.

The Modern Language Association, with the support of grants from the Department of Education, has gathered and analyzed information on enrollments in languages other than English since 1958.

Founded in 1883, the association works to strengthen the study and teaching of language and literature.

Redskins Safety Shot in Home

Continued from FRONT, TAYLOR

fore the shooting was another unexpected invasion that was reported at Taylor's home. According to police records, someone pried open a front window, rifled through his drawers and left a kitchen knife on a bed.

The Redskins safety has had other run-ins with guns that made national headlines as well. Back in 2005, Taylor was accused of brandishing a gun and repeatedly hitting a man during an altercation. However, the felony charges against him were dropped, and he pled no contest to two misdemeanors and was sentenced to 18 months probation.

"It is truly a shame that this had to happen to one of our players," said Richard Clark, a local Redskins fan and Howard alum. "Of

course it would be a tragedy for this to happen to anyone, but Sean [Taylor] just seems to have some terrible luck...of course all us here in Washington and fans all around are praying for him."

Redskins owner Dan Snyder is reported to be headed to visit the critically injured Taylor by running back Clinton Portis, vice-president of football operations Vinny Cerrato and trainer Bubba Tyer.

"Our hearts and prayers go out to Sean and his family," Snyder said. "We appreciate very, very much the outcry of support."

Since he was drafted as the No. 5 overall pick in 2004, Taylor has become known as one of the NFL's hardest hitters. He played in his first Pro Bowl last season, where he drew attention by levelling the other team's punter in what is usually a well-mannered exhibition game.

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Yeah, We're Still On Top Of It...

THE HILLTOP

Metropolitan AME Church Brings Jazz to District

BY BRITNEY BREWINGTON
Contributing Writer

Hymns and gospel music are not the only thing people in Washington, D.C. will be able to hear within the walls of Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Metropolitan AME hosts a jazz series every Friday in Douglas Hall on M Street and the series, which was launched Oct. 12, features jazz musicians from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every Friday. Opening night was a success after spectators heard the sounds of bass player David Dyson of jazz group Pieces of a Dream.

Other acts have already been confirmed for future dates. Tim Harps, director of operations for the series, is excited about being able to partner up with Metropolitan AME.

"Attendance has been good so far, and has been climbing steadily since the opening of the series in October," Harps said. "We have been attracting spectators from the signs that are in front of the church as well as the hotel guests that stay in close proximity and see the advertisements from the hotel."

Big-name jazz musicians, such as Dyson, have been in attendance. Jazz bands like The Trey Eley Experience, who performed Nov. 2, and The Young

Lions, who performed the following week, have also appeared.

Placed on the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, Metropolitan AME aims to bring jazz to the District and the influential church has always been known for its activity in important historical events for the nation.

Frederick Douglass, Bill Clinton, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Winnie Mandela, Jesse Jackson and others have all had ties to the church over the years. Douglass was a frequent worshiper at the church and when he died, his funeral service was held at Metropolitan AME.

King, Jackson, Mandela and Clinton have all spoken at the church regarding many pertinent issues during their times. The location was even chosen twice by former President Clinton for his inaugural prayer services.

Tonya Khakazi, a junior music business major, has always had a strong love for jazz and said there are many opportunities in Washington, D.C. for the jazz scene.

"There are tons of jazz clubs on U Street to frequent," Khakazi. "Jazz is also related to gogo music in a sense, and D.C. has a rich culture and can nurture an artist."

The highly anticipated Capi-

tal Jazz Festival in Columbia, Md. is one that many jazz fans look forward to every year, and it has been deemed the world's largest showcase of contemporary jazz.

Held this year from May 30 to June 3, the festival draws tens of thousands to the area for live jazz, great food, shopping and mingling. The festival started in 1993 and continues to host some of the biggest names in the jazz world, such as Kenny G, Grover Washington, Jr. and Boney James.

William Jordan, an avid jazz listener, has traveled to the jazz festival for the past two years. "My wife and I have been attending the jazz festival for the past two years and love the acts and vendors that are present," he said.

He continued, "The different musical acts and the great performances that they put on are what keeps us coming back year after year. After hearing Anita Baker and George Benson, we can't wait to see what the lineup is next June."

Harps said, "We just hope that the launch of this series creates something that will happen every year, even five to 10 years from now. Our hope is to also continue to build attendance for the series as well as feature local talent, and even attract national talent to perform in the future."



John Davison - Abaca Press (MCT)
Jazz vocalists perform acoustic sets on Fridays at a new jazz series hosted by the Metropolitan AME Church. The new series attracts a diverse crowd to the District's jazz scene.

BACK ON THE BLOCK

K Street Area Holds Political, Popular Influence on Students



Darius Lyles - Staff Photographer
K Street, a political powerhouse for lobbyists in D.C., holds various opportunities for college students seeking careers in the political arena.

BY VIRGINIA HALL
Contributing Writer

College students often recognize the District's historic K Street for its posh lounges and pricey restaurants. However, the neighborhood has strong lobbying ties in local and national politics.

The term K Street usually refers to the northern portion of the street, and encompasses parts of Georgetown, Rock Creek Park and Foggy Bottom.

Over the years, this area of Washington has come to be known as the "center of American lobbying." The area also holds several high-end hotels and some of the top law firms in the District.

K Street can be described as a hub of prestigious law firms and up and coming movers and shakers of the political realm. The "well-oiled" political operation has been a hotbed of activity since the 1970s.

Bianca Henny, a junior sports medicine major, loves the atmosphere of K Street at night. "K Street is so diverse," she said. "Anyone could find their niche there. The Melting Pot is one of my favorite restaurants. I have to go at least once a semester."

Howard hot spots on K Street include McCormick and Schmick's and the K Street Lounge. K Street also hosts several international restaurants, nightclubs and hotels.

Though the area is full of political activists and businessmen, senior finance major Keisha Williams said there is something for everyone. "Whether it's the political activism, the exciting nightlife or the uniqueness of the cuisine, K Street provides a great reference point for the richness of the Washington, D.C. experience," she said.

Howard students also find internships and jobs on K Street. Both Williams, treasurer of the College Democrats, and Allen-Stephens have worked on The Friends of Hillary senatorial campaign. Allen-Stephens said, "Working on K Street was an excellent networking avenue and I learned so much."

Moe Rouse, Tourism Director at the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, said, "This area caters to the business world by day, and transforms at night to create an avenue for the people that work here to rest and relax."

K Street has had a historical and popular influence on the Washington, D.C. area. The area has activities and venues to offer an array of cultures and professions or to launch careers.

The versatility and affluence of K Street goes without question, ensuring that it remains a staple in the District for years to come.

UTC Expansion Brings More Options to Area Residents

BY TIWANA BEVERLY
Contributing Writer

New shops, restaurants, cafés and a 14-screen movie theater are just a few advantages of living in the midst of a \$1.2 billion development.

This expansion, located in the heart of northern Prince George's County, is the newly developed University Town Center (UTC).

University Town Center is a 56-acre project now undergoing a major expansion. Its owner, Herschel Blumberg, originally developed the plan 50 years ago. With the new expansion, developers hope to bring a fresh, sophisticated vibe to the Prince George's County and Hyattsville, Md. area.

Along with the development, a host of restaurants and other commercial buildings have come to the area. Establishments like Three Brothers Italian Restaurant, Mongolian Grill, Qdoba Mexican Grill and Tokyo Sushi Bar have been added.

"We have 11 restaurants coming to the development," said Tim Taylor, vice president of the University Town Center. "Two have already opened and we are anticipating the opening of Five Guys on Dec. 1."

Taylor continued, "There is also undergoing construction of One Independence Plaza, our 112-unit luxury con-

dominiums."

Marcus Henderson, 20, a resident of Towers at University Town Center, loves the accommodations the expansion adds.

"Before moving into UTC, I had no idea of the expansion projects that were taking place out back," Henderson said. "Living in the midst of the town center development definitely has its advantages. I can just walk outside my building and there is a movie theater in my backyard."

Previously, residents of the area had complained about the lack of restaurants and upscale shopping the county provides. This situation resulted in many having to travel into the city to fulfill their dining expectations. However, with this new expansion, University Town Center hopes to attract higher-end retail.

Brodrick Baker, a junior computer engineer major, said it can sometimes be hard to find a nice restaurant.

"I prefer dining outside of the city," he said. "It gives me time to escape the fast-paced life and just relax. Often times, I result in turning to Silver Spring, Md. But I'm pleased to see the town center offering new alternatives."

With the addition of restaurants, Royale 14 Cinemas also came to the center of the

University Town Center during the summer. The new 14-screen movie theater offers state of the art stadium seating, wall-to-wall screens, gourmet concessions, digital sound and first-class service. The Royale 14 Cinemas has become the visual focus of UTC and will help create a major entertainment center in Prince George's County.

Michael Fraser, a junior health management major, is looking forward to the development taking place at UTC.

"I do not really get over to that part of the area that often, so I was very unfamiliar with all the new changes," he said. "However, I am looking forward to seeing the project being completed. I think I might have to reconsider giving that area a new shot."

Like Fraser, many other Howard students have tended to pass over the Prince George's County area when searching for dining and entertainment options. But with it being one of the country's wealthiest predominantly African-American counties, its possibilities have become endless.

New expansions, like the one taking place at UTC, provide almost anything and everything for consumers' convenience. The redevelopment at UTC and has helped make this once overlooked area the new place to be.



Photo courtesy of www.utcddevelopment.utcliving.com
University Town Center in Hyattsville, Md. is undergoing massive redevelopment and commercial expansion.

Do you have a passion for writing? Become a METRO writer next semester...think about it.

In Observance of the Reading Period and Finals,
The Hilltop's last issue is on Friday, Dec. 7

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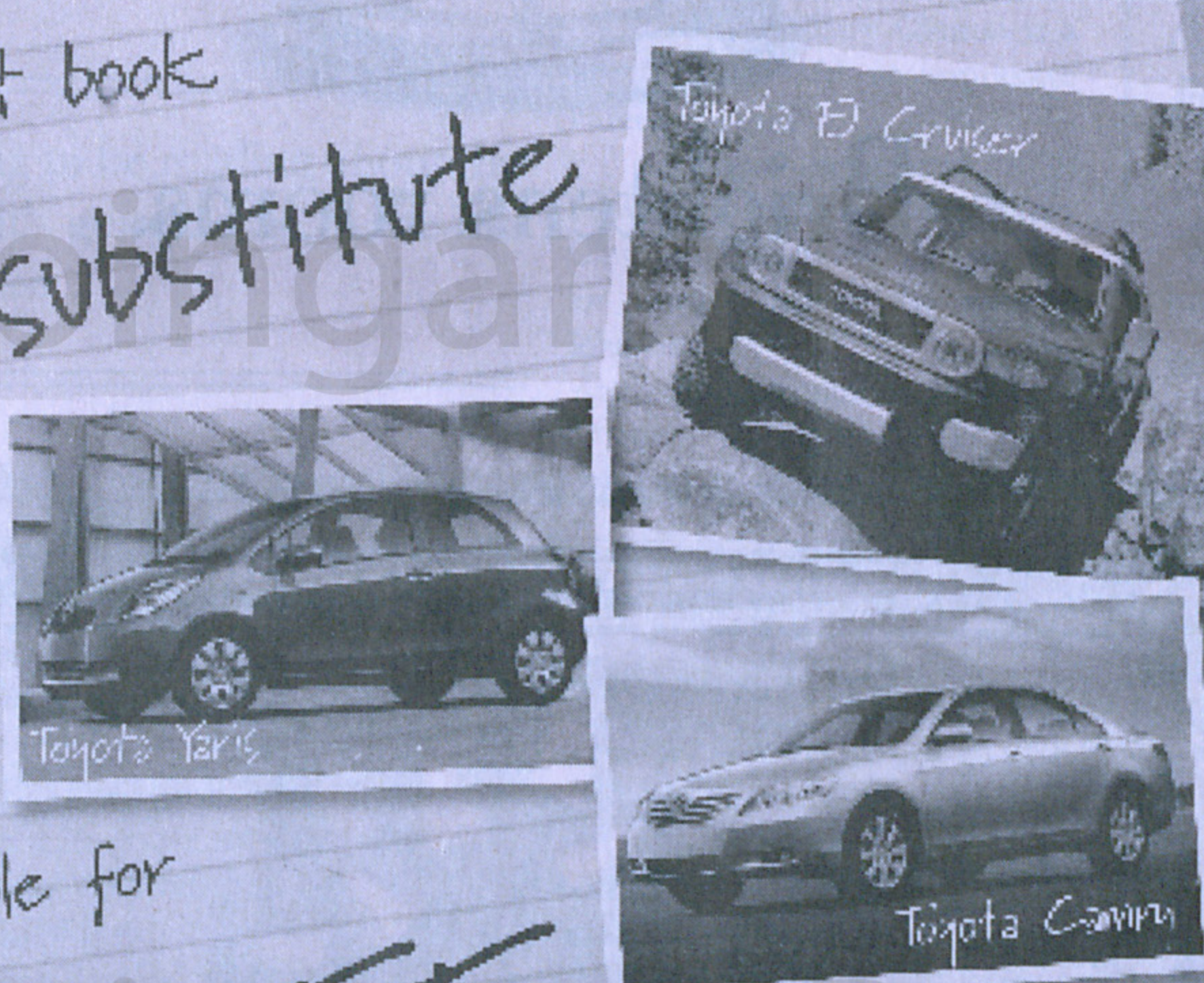
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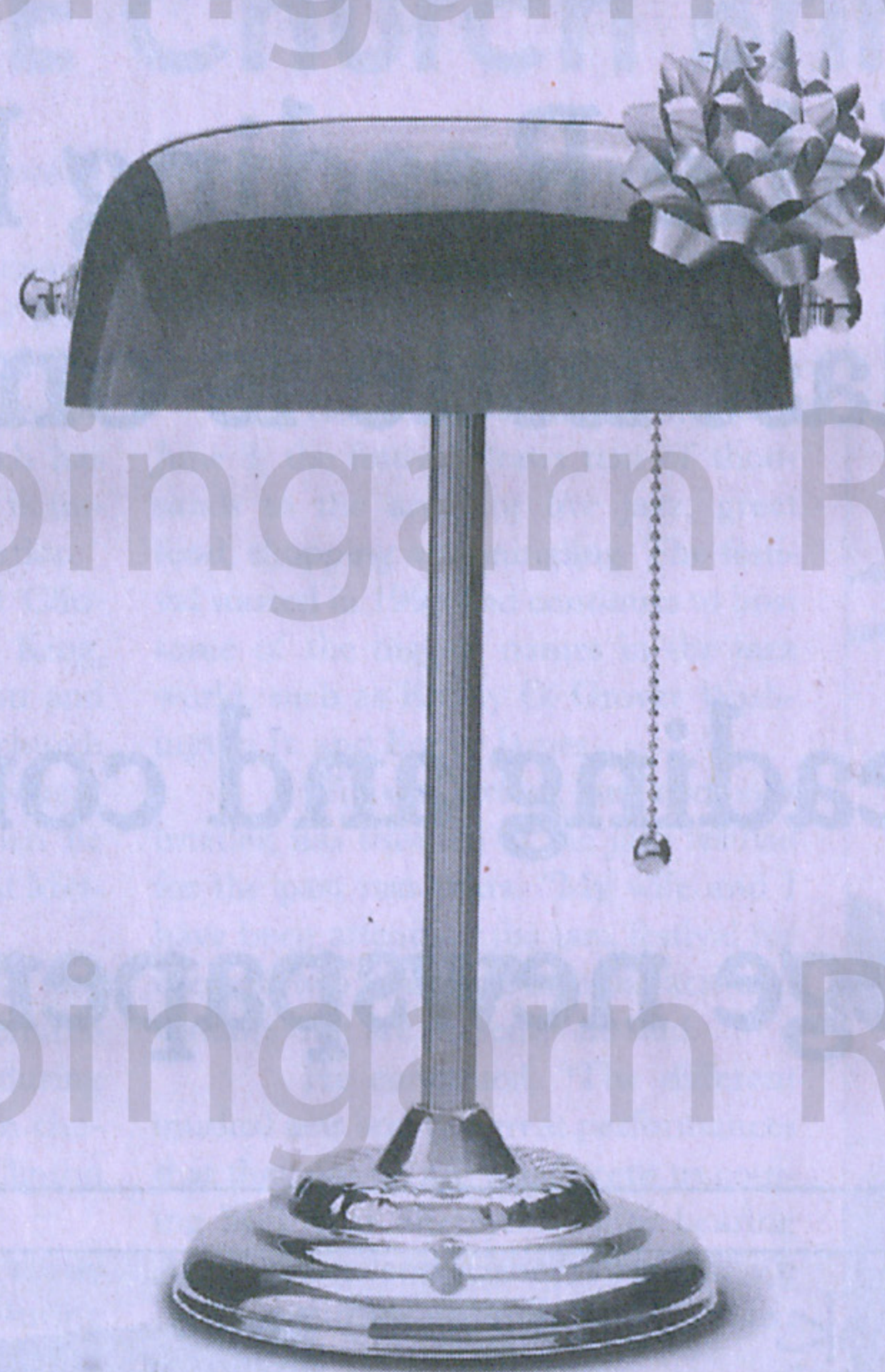
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Black Women Torn Between Two Minority Front-Runners

The 'OH Effect' Creates Debate Over Which Political Milestone to Choose

BY EDWARD M. EVELD
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Americans love firsts. But which first should be first:

The first woman nominated by a major party to be president?

Or the first African-American?

Tough question, and it's razor-sharp for many in a particular subset of U.S. voters: African-American women.

Beatrice Agee said that after hearing more than a few discussions about Hillary Clinton vs. Barack Obama, she gave the phenomenon a nickname.

"It's the 'OH effect,'" Agee said. "Obama and Hillary. You have to think hard and think long to choose between the two candidates."

People want to believe that "anyone can grow up to be president."

If Clinton or Obama prevails as the Democratic nominee and then in the 2008 election, that aphorism could extend beyond white men for the first time.

Agee likes that Obama is relatively fresh on the scene, and she likes Clinton's experience. Both are capable and willing, she said.

But she has decided that gender and race will not be deciding factors for her. Instead, she will listen to hear which one offers solutions to the country's financial troubles, to name one issue.

Everything from the home mortgage fiasco to health care to credit card debt.

And while Agee said she supports U.S. troops, she wants to hear a clear view about what should happen next in Iraq.

"I'm a woman and I'm a black woman, but in the 21st century I think it goes beyond that," she said.

For Victoria Dixon, race trumped gender in her decision to support Obama. Dixon works at a local television station and is a volunteer in the Obama campaign. On a recent Saturday, she showed visitors through the candidate's campaign office in Kansas City, Mo.

"The gender side never factored in for me," Dixon said. "As an African-American candidate, he really inspired me more. I feel as a people we need to stand behind him."

But her identification with him went much deeper than race, she said.

"When I saw Barack for the first time, he just reminded me of Bobby Kennedy," said Dixon, who was a baby when Kennedy was as-

sassinated. "Something new, something fresh. I had to jump on board."

To Dixon, Clinton is the establishment candidate, representing "the same ol' same ol'."

Nancy Butler, a retired teacher, said it is still too early to pick one over the other.

Butler regards Clinton as a brilliant person who has endured much and who is respected all over the world. On the other hand, she said, "Hillary has a lot of obstacles to overcome because she has more history."

And Obama?

"I got a chance to hear Obama for a complete interview on television," she said. "I like the way he handled himself. He, too, has grown."

prospect of a woman as president than an African-American, she said. But Clinton's problem is her last name, which carries a lot of negatives for some people. She thinks Edwards is the Democrat most electable in November 2008.

Shelia Johnson thinks she has a long history with the Clintons. She read their books. She voted for Bill Clinton for president. The Clintons have backed causes important to African-Americans. And Hillary Clinton is a strong person with an impressive career, she said.

"There are several things I love and respect about Hillary Clinton and what she represents for women across the world," Johnson said.

Such thoughts are shared by many American blacks, who were strong supporters of the former president.

Polls have shown in recent months that African-American women prefer Clinton to Obama.

For overall voters in Iowa, which holds its caucuses Jan. 3, a recent poll showed a tight race, with 25 percent preferring Clinton, 23 percent for John Edwards and 22 percent for Obama.

Johnson first became aware of Obama when the then-state legislator from Illinois delivered his blockbuster keynote address at the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

"Who was that?" she recalled saying. "I had never heard of that man."

After her book club read Obama's autobiography "Dreams From My Father," Johnson felt drawn to him, particularly to his passion and his compassion.

"He seems to unite people from all walks of life," she said.

Ultimately, Johnson's admiration for Clinton as a powerful, experienced woman yielded to her hopes and enthusiasm for Obama. She's now a volunteer in his local campaign.

"Either way it goes," Johnson said, "it's historical and it's amazing. My granddaughter is going to be reading about this as she grows up because it's going to be in the history books."



With Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama running, attention has been turned to the 2008 presidential election early this year. If either win the Democratic candidacy, they will make history.

African-American Women at Howard Weigh in on the 'OH Effect'

"I'm torn and feel obligated to vote for Hillary because she's a woman and because of her stance concerning African Americans...We assume she has experience and so knows the plight of blacks. I also assume that she will continue developing the issues she dealt with in the White House like health care, social security and welfare."

Yvonne Rice, Lobby monitor, worked on Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign

"I don't feel torn between the two candidates. I am voting for Obama. I'm not a big Hillary fan and being from Chicago."

Brittany Bradshaw, sophomore musical theater major

"I don't feel obligated to vote for anyone... I'm personally voting for Obama, but not because he's black or a man."

Courtney Tatum, sophomore marketing major

"A lot of people don't want a female president because they say women are too compassionate and can't handle the pressures of being president, so I think Barack might win... I think a lot of black women won't vote at all, which might become a serious issue in this election."

Aundrea Hardgrove, sophomore public relations major

- Compiled by AMARIS NOBLE

Get to Know Your Candidates Before Going to the Voting Booth

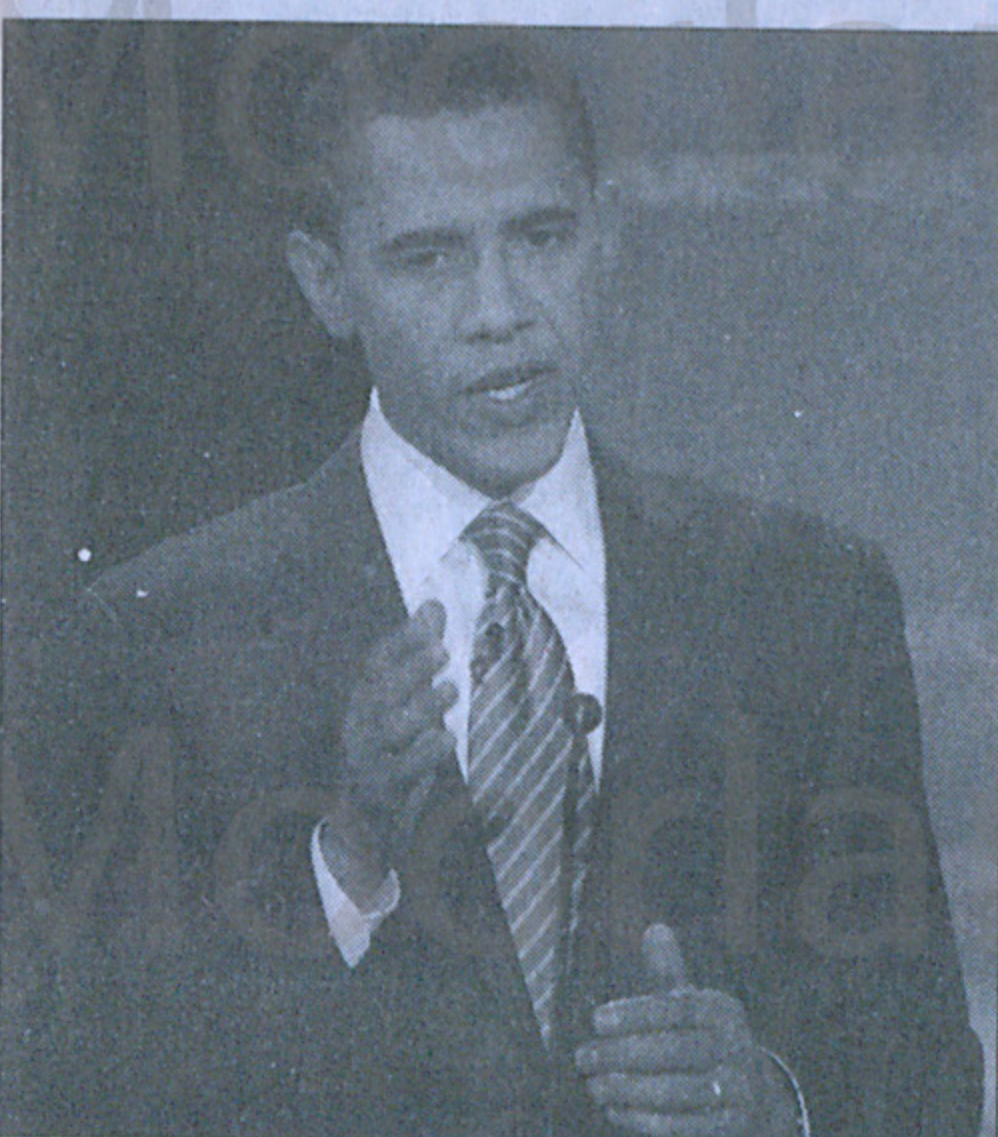
Barack Obama

BY JADA SMITH
Staff Writer

Barack Obama, Jr., candidate for the Democratic nomination in the 2008 presidential election and current U.S. Senator from Illinois, is the fifth African-American senator in U.S. History and currently the only one in the Senate.

Before being elected to the U.S. Senate, he served in the Illinois Senate for nine years.

After raising \$20,419,020 for his campaign — the second highest of every presidential candidate, Democrat or Republican — Obama is a front runner for the democratic nomination.



Chuck Kennedy (MCT)
Sen. Barack Obama campaigns for a nomination.

Obama has cosponsored the enactment for control over controversial weapons and transparency legislation.

He has also sponsored legislation on lobbying, electoral fraud, climate change, improvements in veteran's rights, an emphasized plan to end the war in Iraq and implementing universal health care.

During his Senate career, he sponsored more than 152 bills and resolutions in the 109th Congress in 2005 and 2006 and cosponsored another 427.

He helped to pass numerous immigration legislation to secure borders, yet forge a path to citizenship for immigrants who are already in America.

Obama has done extensive work with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee by traveling to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan.

Despite the senator's seemingly picture perfect political record and place in history, many people are still skeptical of his ability to perform as president of the United States.

Tristan Porter, a junior clinical laboratory science major and Democrat, said Obama may not be ready, career wise, to take office.

"I don't think he should run," Porter said. "I think the Republicans have seen their failure approaching and have made it to where it

is nearly impossible for a quick recovery of America's suffering economy. This would leave a ridiculously complicated job for the next president who, if unable to help America recover from the previous administration, would only take part in its failure. I would hate to see that on Obama's record."

Porter continued, "I also think that the only reason he hasn't been involved in scandal or drama like the other candidates is because he's younger than most of them and because he hasn't been in politics and in the public eye as long as the rest of them."

Obama has not been the topic of much scandal, but has drawn media attention because of a possible connection to a controversial Illinois businessman.

The senator has also faced opposition from another Democratic candidate and front runner, Hillary Clinton.

Clinton has questioned Obama's teenage years in Indonesia, his religious affiliations, and his policies.

Most recently, Obama has been attacked on his universal health care policy, which he plans to enact once in office.

Obama's Plan for a Healthy America includes lowering health care costs and ensuring affordable, high quality health care for all.

He acknowledges that even though America has the best medical technology and scientific research in the world, it comes at a price that many U.S. families and individuals cannot afford.

Rudy Guiliani

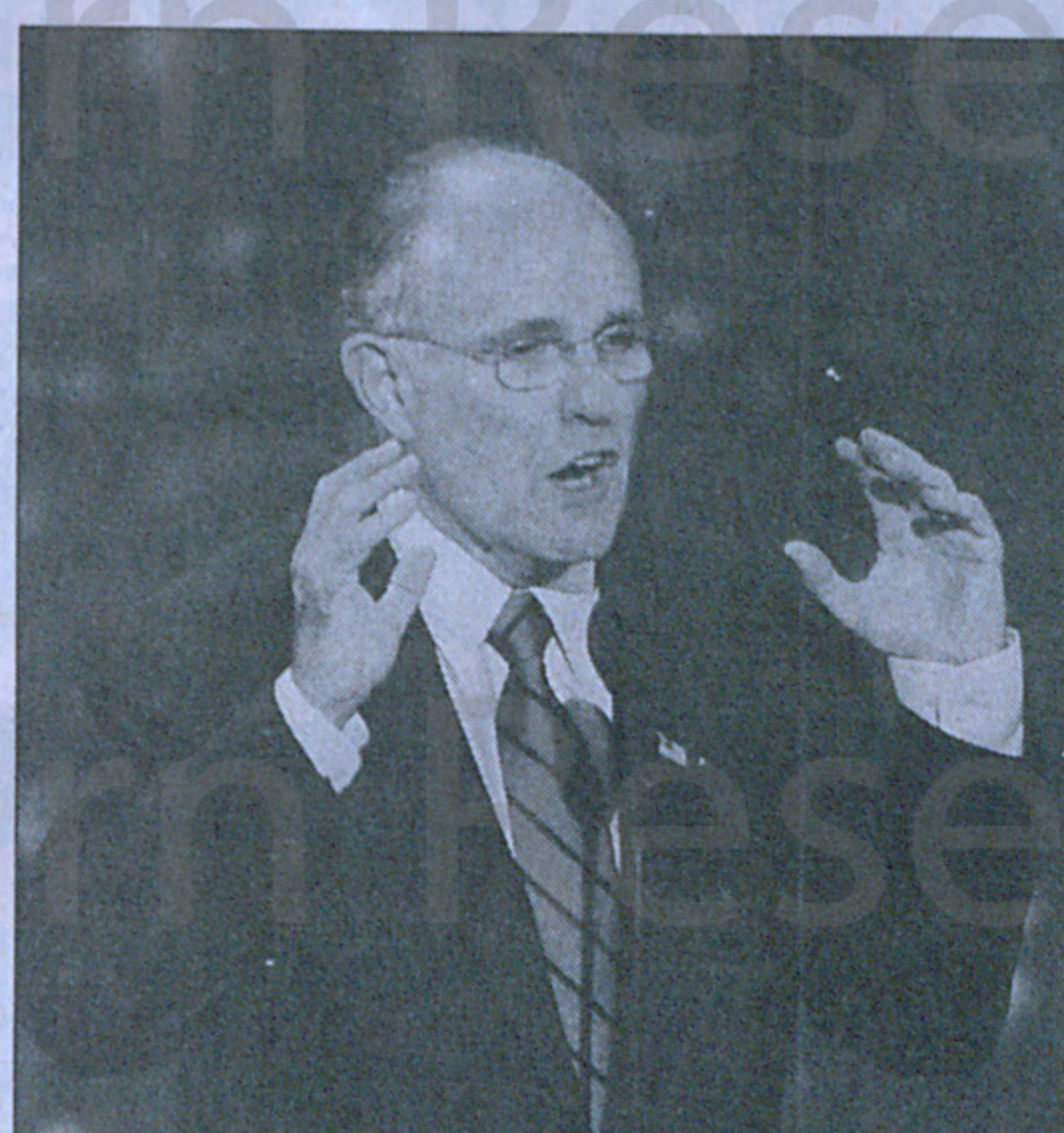
BY JADA SMITH
Staff Writer

Presidential candidate Rudolph Giuliani has been pegged as the front runner for the Republican Party in the 2008 presidential election.

After serving as the 107th mayor of New York City for eight consecutive years, Giuliani announced his candidacy on Feb. 5, 2007.

The former New York mayor has raised more campaign funds than any other Republican candidate with a total topping \$11,253,552.

Giuliani was a Democrat in the beginning of his political career, but switched to the



Chuck Kennedy (MCT)
Rudy Guiliani attempts to get Americans' vote.

Republican Party in 1980 after a short run as an Independent.

Giuliani's biggest claim to political fame was his acclaimed leadership during the Sept. 11 crisis.

Before the attack, Giuliani had received an overall 36 percent approval rating from New Yorkers.

After the attack, he received a 79 percent approval rating.

During this time, he was given the nickname "America's Mayor" by Oprah Winfrey.

Although he was widely praised for his intense involvement with the rescue and recovery efforts following 9/11, he was also widely criticized for reportedly ignoring the ongoing threat to the city by Islamic terrorists.

During the Giuliani mayoral administration in New York City, crime rates dropped.

His CompStat initiative to help geographically map out crime in the city won the 1996 Innovations in Government Award from the Kennedy School of Government.

Gays and lesbians received domestic partnership rights, which granted all city employees equal benefits for their domestic partners.

Despite those accolades, there were many other circumstances surrounding Guil-

iani's administration that could work against him during his run for president.

Although crime dropped in New York during his time as mayor, crime had also been dropping across the country, and many analysts and critics said Giuliani may have just been the beneficiary of a trend already in progress.

He was also criticized for embracing illegal immigrants, significantly reducing public education funding in New York and using nepotism to fill prominent city positions.

Giuliani has also been accused of using 9/11 as a method for political gain and lying about the amount of time he spent at Ground Zero.

The list continues with putting the Office of Emergency Management inside the World Trade Center when he was advised multiple times that it was not a smart idea and not providing adequate funds for policemen and firefighters' equipment.

Some have said Giuliani is power hungry and self righteous, and that he ignored dangerous health effects caused by the aftermath of 9/11.

His personal drama made the cover of *People* magazine when it was discovered that he had extramarital affairs.

Anthony Baldwin, a sophomore pre-dentistry major and Republican voter, said, "Even though there's been controversy surrounding Giuliani in the past, I think he's one of the best presidential candidates. I haven't agreed with all of his policy, but I think he would be better than the rest of them."

Women Rarely Seen in Campus Weight Room

BY DERRY SANDY
Contributing Writer

According to Howard University statistics, the campus is 63 percent female and 37 percent male — a male to female ratio that is far from rare among HBCUs.

Before the question is asked, “where are the black men in college,” there is solace in knowing that there is still a place at Howard where the men outnumber the women (and no it’s not the male showers). It’s The Pulse weight room.

At a college where females outnumber males almost 2:1, one might expect that, outside of the fraternities and the male sports teams, there would be a surplus of women participating in all activities, however, the users of The Pulse weight room belie this inequality.

At The Pulse on any given evening between the hours of 5 and 9 p.m., it is almost possible to collect testosterone samples from the air.

The sounds inside The Pulse are a cacophony of male grunts and clanking metal, a mixture that is decidedly estrogen deficient.

“[You] guys are intimidating, all of you are so big and lift so much,” said finance major Nnenna Okorafor, one of the few young women who train at The Pulse.

Andre Jeffers, a junior finance major cited the recent Staph infection outbreaks as a

possible cause to the overwhelmingly female presence in the cardio room.

At least one university has taken somewhat drastic steps in rectifying the male to female weight room ratio.

Florida A&M University, has instituted a system where two hours, two days in the week are designated for females only. The Florida A&M gym is open six days a week.

The action to designate four hours a week to females has been met with mixed reactions. Akeem Anderson, editor-in-chief

of the Famuan (Florida A&M’s student newspaper), had this to say in his column, “As accusations fly about ogling males facilitating an uncomfortable fitness environment, did anyone think that guys come to the gym to actually work out?”

“If the primary goal was to look at scantily clad women, they could simply take a seat on the set,” he continued, “It is arrogant and vain to think that men will abandon their workout regimen simply to commit ocular assault on any woman that crosses his path.”

Regardless of the negative sentiments expressed by some ladies, there are an intrepid few who do use The Pulse weight room.

There is however a distinct difference in motivation for weight training as expressed by males and females.

Males appear to be motivated by the desire to gain weight, while females express the desire to tone-up and trim body fat. Thus it would seem that the absence of a major female presence in the pulse is due in most part to the difference in the de-

sired physical appearance of males and females.

“There are too many of you all (males) lifting and sweating and grunting, and sometimes we (females) feel like we are being looked at,” said Alicia Omans junior chemistry major.

“The average Howard man working out in the gym is very serious about what he is doing,” said Quincy Stewart, a sophomore engineering major. “The majority of guys there are regulars who are there week after week, semester after semester. We are generally not overly inter-

ested in the women who come to The Pulse. Looking at females in The Pulse when the Yard is right there, please!”

A bit of self conscious reluctance is permissible for first time users of any public exercise facility.

However, the Pulse is a great place to break a sweat, shed some pounds and relieve some stress. In fact a few more women may actually help to dilute the smell of testosterone and add a few soprano tones to the masculine grunting.



The Pulse is located in Burr Gymnasium and open to all Howard students to work out and lift weights, however many who frequent the gym have noticed the lack of women using the gym.

Student-Athletes Band Together to Work Food Drive



SAAC (Student Athletic Advisory Committee) help work Food 2 Feed, a holiday food drive for the hungry of D.C.

BY WINNIE CLARK-JENKINS
Sports Editor

SAAC, Howard’s Student Athlete Advisory Committee, held a community service project, Food 2 Feed Holiday Drive, on Nov. 15 at the Old Post Office Pavilion. The drive was co-sponsored by WHUR 96.3.

SAAC is an organization of student-athletic leaders that participates in a number of community service activities throughout the school year.

The nationally syndicated, Steve Harvey Morning Show was broadcast live outside from WHUR at the Old Post Office Pavilion at 6 a.m.

Harvey, an award-winning comedian and radio personal-

ity, brought his show and crew to Washington to help increase awareness about the plight of the needy. The show estimated that an alarming one in nine D.C. families is at risk of or living with hunger.

The Food 2 Feed broadcast collected monetary and non-perishable food items that will be turned over to Bread for the City, a private, non-profit organization that provides vulnerable Washington residents with comprehensive services including food, clothing, medical care, legal, and social services.

“We know that there are literally tens of thousands of families in the Washington area who are at-risk of not having a traditional Thanksgiving meal this year,”

WHUR General Manager Jim Watkins said. “With the help of our many sponsors and generous listeners, we believe we can make this holiday season a special one for needy families. Hunger is one of those social ills that we all can take an active role in eliminating in our society.”

The 12-hour broadcast was a culmination of a five-week campaign by the radio station educating listeners about the number of people in the Washington-area that are in need. Donations to help feed needy families can be made at the broadcast site, on-line at <http://www.food2feed.org/>, or by calling 202-289-4901.

-Additional Reporting by
HU Sports Information

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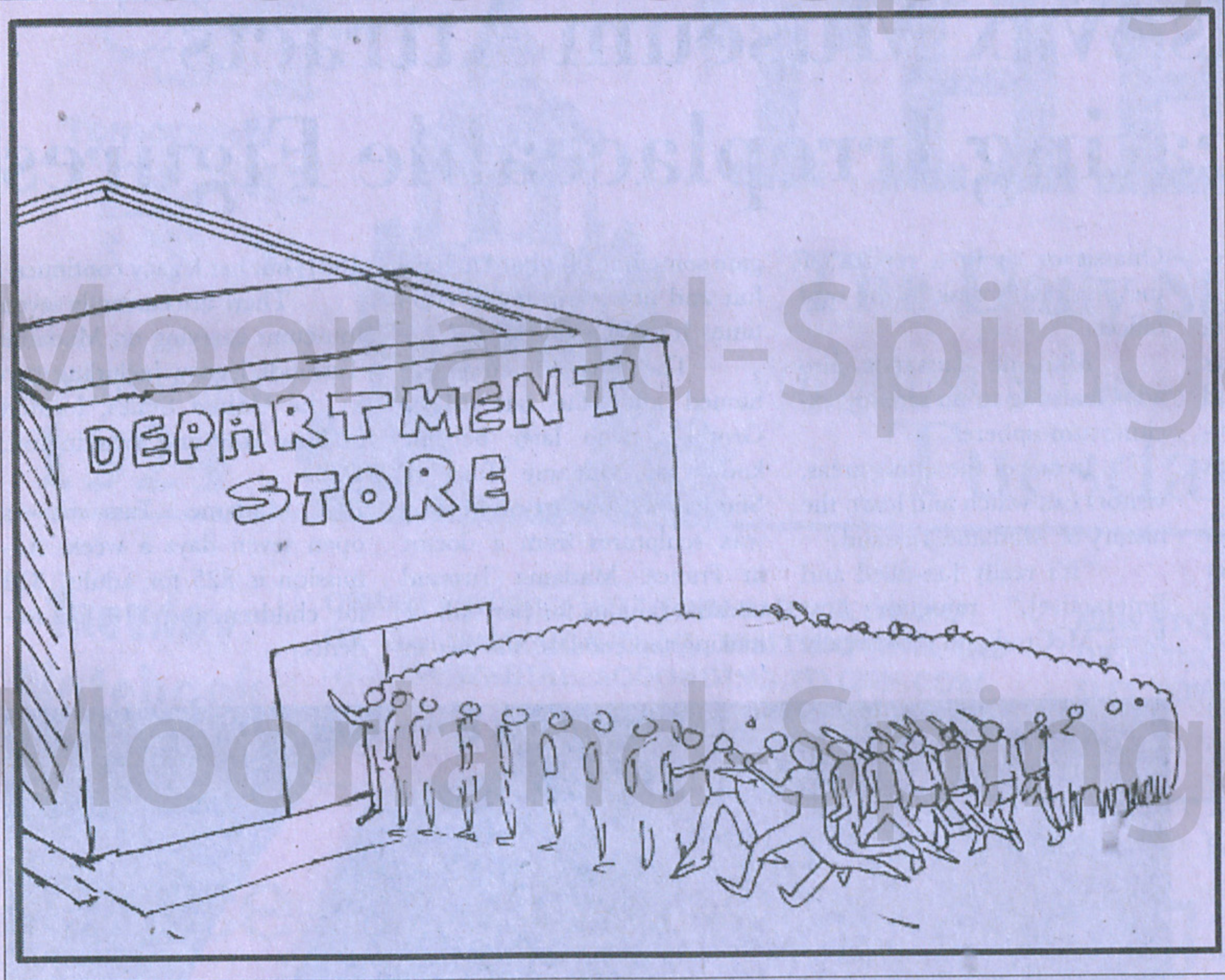
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Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Shoppers Have Alternatives

What could be better for the genuine shopper than waking up before 4 a.m. for a day of elbowing one's way into a line to stand in a sea of people in the freezing cold, just to be one of the first to shovel their way through a Kohl's or Wal-Mart store? Not much, according to many.

According to the National Retail Federation (NRF), 132.9 million shoppers graced the aisles of thousands of shopping centers and stores across the country this past weekend. Web sites like www.blackfriday.info are set up to help these millions of shoppers find the best deals across the country, prior to leaving their homes. Companies like Wal-Mart, Circuit City, Ace Hardware and Staples are just a few of the many companies that advertise on this particular Web site.

The stores submit their deals for the Black Friday shopping day, as well as for the entire holiday shopping season, which technically begins on Black Friday and continues through the weekend after Christmas. There are also hundreds of coupons provided by the stores. They can be printed and redeemed in stores or online at the shopper's convenience.

And speaking of online

shopping, Monday marked the biggest online shopping day of the year. The online shopping that takes place on the first working day after Black Friday is expected to cause more than \$1 billion worth of setbacks for companies whose employees spend their time browsing the Internet for items rather than efficiently working.

As for students, Black Friday can hold an even more precious value than just clothes, toys and electronics. Student Travel Agency (STA) sells airline tickets at extremely low, discounted prices for

to spend their Friday after Thanksgiving shopping with the other millions of deal-hungry shoppers, traveling back to school on that day may prove to be a very smart solution to a holiday budget crisis.

Aside from traveling, there are other alternatives to shopping on Black Friday. In fact, with its 15th annual "Buy Nothing Day" in full effect, the Center for Advancement and Sustainable Living, along with various student organizations, are proving that there are lots of alternatives to participating in the shopping frenzy that occurs the same day each year.

Their goal is to raise awareness of consumerism in our society, and how it affects the lives of everyone. They hold rallies on various school campuses and have posters that reflect students' tips on how to spend their Black Friday without shopping.

Napping and eating Thanksgiving leftovers top the list nearly every year, according to the organization.

Whether or not you choose to spend your post-Thanksgiving days at the mall, do not forget that there are still 27 shopping days before Christmas. Don't spend all your money in one place!

Our View:

There are other advantages to Black Friday besides shopping.

travel on Black Friday.

In order to qualify, students must be full-time and either above the age of 12 and hold ISIC cards, or youth travelers under the age of 26. ISIC is an acronym for International Student Identity Card, and is available to students seeking a degree at an accredited college or university. The card costs \$22, and it expires on Dec. 31 of every year. For students who choose not

Daily Sudoku

Directions:
Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1–9 exactly once.

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Now in its 84th year, *The Hilltop* is published Monday through Friday by Howard University students. With a readership of 7,000, *The Hilltop* is the largest black collegiate newspaper in the nation.

The opinions expressed on the Editorial & Perspectives page are the views of the *The Hilltop* Editorial Board and those of the authors and do not necessarily represent Howard University or its administration.

The Hilltop reserves the right to edit letters for space and grammatical errors and any inappropriate, libelous or defamatory content. All letters must be submitted a week prior to publication.

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Confessions of a L&S Editor

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

Dear Howard,

It feels like this semester has been a whirlwind, but finally it's calming down. One thing I adore about Howard is that we all tend to have a general sentiment during the course of the school year.

For the most part, we all start anxious, excited to see our friends after summer break.

I used to be one of those people who thought you should come back from summer break all self-actualized or at least with a new wardrobe. And for many, summer break is "life changing," even if the transformation took only four months.

But in general, the sun is shining, everyone is happy to be back and we're ready to start afresh.

Virtually within a couple of weeks we're ready to kick off Homecoming and anticipate what the best events will be. Many of us slack off a little, party a lot and generally enjoy the week.

But the period between Homecoming and Thanksgiving is all about hustling to bring those grades up.

Some of the more savvy students also use this period to network at career fairs and look for jobs and internships to solidify a career post graduation.

Then Thanksgiving comes around, and we take the "L" (as we Howard folk call it).

Going to those early morning classes and putting in those late nights for assignments becomes a hassle. We rationalize the time we had and although we can't go in the past, there still needs to be momentum for the future.

I'm a victim of it too; the weather is what impacts my mood the most. Studies have found that sunshine stimulates endorphins, which "make you happy."

Coming from the Sunshine State, I think I get a mild case of Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) during the winter.

For those of you who aren't up on psychological terms (like me before I wrote this) SAD, also known as "winter blues" or "cabin fever," is a mood disorder characterized by loss of energy, constant sleeping, excessive eating and irritability.

A lot of people suffer from this disorder during the winter season. SAD usually begins in young adulthood and, according to Cleveland Clinic surveys, 4 to 6 percent of the general population experiences SAD.

It's understandable to suffer from this disorder. Just looking out the window makes me want to take a nap. BUT we must all fight these feelings.

Since I got a pep talk this weekend, so should my fellow students.

Keep working and don't slow down because the semester is almost over. You never know what one more office visit or extra credit assignment can do for your grade.

From hearing the complaints of working adults, being in school is much easier than working full time. And I can't help but believe them. Make the best out of the ability to have a boring class.

If none of this helps, know this: If you're reading this in a class you registered for, you've made it this far already.

Hold on! We only have a week and two days to go!

—Dani K.

Got any words of inspiration? Let us hear you out. E-mail lifeandstyle2007@gmail.com.

Madame Tussauds Wax Museum Attracts Patrons by Replicating Irreplaceable Figures

BY SOPHIA ADEM
Contributing Writer

Tourists travel to Washington, D.C. from all around the globe to visit historical buildings, monuments, memorials and museums.

Just last month, Washington, D.C. added another tourist attraction that brought a different art form to the area: Madame Tussauds Wax Museum.

For those who have ever wanted to take pictures with America's most famed actors, singers, politicians, and historical figures, Madame Tussauds is the right place to go.

The museum houses 51 wax figures that are identical to the legends they portray. These figures often leave visitors amazed at the accuracy of the image. They are so life-like that the museum has a sort of eerie atmosphere, as if patrons are being watched.

The figures meticulously replicate the stature and complexities of celebrities.

From the wrinkles on Mike Tyson's forehead to the lines under Hillary Clinton's eyes, these wax figures are very accurate. They all have human hair and clothes from the celebrities are sometimes donated to put on the figures.

Some of the celebrities even posed and allowed the artists to get exact measurements for the wax figures that would be made of them.

"Beyonce [was one of the ones that] actually sat for her sitting," museum host Cheryl

Chalk said. "Will Smith declined."

As visitors enter the main lobby, they are greeted by wax figures Whoopi Goldberg and Samuel L. Jackson. Wax figures that have commonalities are housed in the same room.

Another room has sport figures like Mike Tyson, Tiger Woods and Babe Ruth. Another room has figures of the civil rights era, such as Rosa Parks, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X.

"I like the fact that they weren't timid to use controversial figures like Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali," Tony Crooks, a museum visitor, said.

The largest room holds the figures of Tom Cruise, Jennifer Lopez and Morgan Freeman. There is also a wax figure of Beyonce with a big screen TV playing her music videos.

The museum also has wax figures of the nation's founding fathers, including George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Visitors can take a picture with Duke Ellington sitting at his grand piano or listen to a young Marvin Gaye sing.

"[It was] awesome," Crooks said. "Malcolm X was my favorite."

There are many other interactive things to do at the museum in addition to taking pictures.

Children and adults with an imagination can play dress up in the room with former President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline Kennedy-

Onassis or sit in a replica of the president's desk in the oval office.

Madame Tussauds also adds learning to an already exciting atmosphere.

In one of the sitting areas, visitors can watch and learn the history of Madame Tussaud.

"It's really fun-filled and [interactive]," museum host Erica McCrad said. "You really

gain something. It's hard to have fun and not learn at the same time. It's real educational."

The wax museum was named after the late Marie Grosholz, who later became known as Madame Tussaud. She learned the art of making wax sculptures from a doctor in France. Madame Tussaud became famous for her skill of making wax models. She died in

1881, but her legacy continues.

There are currently seven museums carrying on Madame Tussauds legacy, including two in the United States, located in New York and Washington, D.C.

Madame Tussauds is open seven days a week. Admission is \$25 for adults, \$18 for children and \$19 for students.



Sophia Adem - Contributing Photographer
Beyonce is one of many celebrities to have their images replicated in Madame Tussauds Wax Museum. The wax figures have attracted many patrons since the museum's opening in Washington, D.C. last year.

Sizing System Takes the Frustration Out of Shopping

BY CAROL MCGRAW
The Gazette (MCT)

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Women of the universe, we know you can commiserate when we tell you that Vicky Howe hated to shop for pants.

You know the process, an ordeal that's more frustrating than a rush hour commute, and just about as challenging.

Woman grabs at least a dozen pairs of pants and hauls them into the dressing room.

Woman tries on pair No. 1 and discards it because it's too big.

Woman tries on pair No. 2 and discards it because it's too small.

Then she discards another, and another and another until she finds one that mostly, sort of, almost fits.

Yes, Howe felt our pain, but now she's found the cure, a new sizing system that made her most recent pants buying experience a snap.

"It is usually very time consuming, and I don't have all that time to shop," said Howe, a health care residential manager who bought a pair of dressy slacks. "But this time it took less than half the time."

The sizing system, called Right Fit, was developed by Pennsylvania-based Charming Shoppes, which owns the plus size shops Catherines and Lane Bryant.

"They should have done this years ago," said Susan Decker, a Catherines saleswoman. "Now the ladies' rears look good."

The system, which uses red, yellow and blue color codes to help women find the best fit, centers on women's body shapes and is based on hip-to-waist ratios.

It's a radical departure from the typical sizing system, which targets a woman's largest body part.

But that doesn't work for someone who isn't perfectly proportioned.

A woman with a small waist and big hips, for example, ends up with gaping waistbands when she finds pants that fit her derriere.

The problem of finding women's pants that fit is nothing new. It began decades ago, says George Simonton, a professor at the Fashion Institute of Technology at the State University of New York, and a Seventh Avenue designer.

In the early 20th century,

Simonton said, many women had dressmakers.

Then, with the advent of ready-to-wear garments, manufacturers came up with standard sizing, which doesn't suit everyone's shape.

"Lots of women might be a Size 10, but [they] have all sorts of body shapes, so it has been confusing," he said.

Adding to the confusion, some big chain stores have different sizing specifications for their clothing, making a 10 at their stores different from a 10 elsewhere.

Then there are designers who have created vanity sizing, shrinking the numbers on the tag so women think they're wearing smaller sizes.

It adds up to a dressing room nightmare for women, a situation men rarely face because they are more apt to have their dress slacks altered.

"Women don't do that," Simonton said. "They try on and try on because they don't want to pay for alterations and just want to put it on and leave the store."

The new sizing system at Catherines and Lane Bryant helps women in the special-fit category achieve that, he said.

"America is growing, and

so they are deviating in size from the old standards," Simonton said. "It looks like they are addressing that problem."

To create the Right Fit system, 14,000 women were measured using laser technology to build three distinct fits, said Brooke Perry, spokeswoman for Charming Shoppes.

The color codes were developed to correspond to the style shapes.

Yellow is for those who have a straight shape, with the waist and hips about the same size or the hips three to five inches larger than the waist.

The issue these women usually have is that pants are tight at the waist and too big in the thighs and hips.

Red tags are designed for moderately curvy women, an hourglass proportion, whose hips are six to nine inches bigger than their waists.

Typically, the pants that fit these women are too big in the waist or too tight in the hips.

Blue is for women whose hips are 10 to 13 inches larger than their waists, or pear shape.

Besides shape, the sizing has changed. Gone are sizes 38 to 54.

Replacing them are Sizes 3 through 12, based on waist size.

To make the new system easier for customers, they are measured with a special tape measure when they come into the store to pinpoint their shapes and convert their old sizes to the new ones.

Customers then go to the racks with their color codes and find the right size.

After the initial measuring, there is little need for women to try on the clothes because the sizing is so uniform.

"It's been an outstanding success," said Annemarie Czarniecki, manager of the Catherines store in Colorado Springs, Colo. "Our customers are buying two or three pairs at a time because they fit."



Barbara L. Johnson - Philadelphia Inquirer (MCT)

For many female shoppers, finding the right fit can be a difficult task. A new sizing system called Right Fit, created by Charming Shoppes, offers a new way to 'size up' pants and jeans based on hip-to-waist ratio.

The Hilltop apologizes for the factual inaccuracy and offensive tone of the article entitled "College Students More Likely to Experiment Sexually" by Kailyn Hart. The homophobic views expressed by the writer and sources in the article are not supported by *The Hilltop's* editorial staff and are not — at all — reflective of the views of the Howard University community. Look for Janelle Jolley's column "Genuinely Jolley" in Wednesday's *Hilltop* for a broader look at the fallout resulting from the article and please submit your input on the article to jjolley@gmail.com or the Letter to the Editors link at www.thehilltoponline.com. Include your contact information so that we can follow up on your input and possibly include it in our coverage.